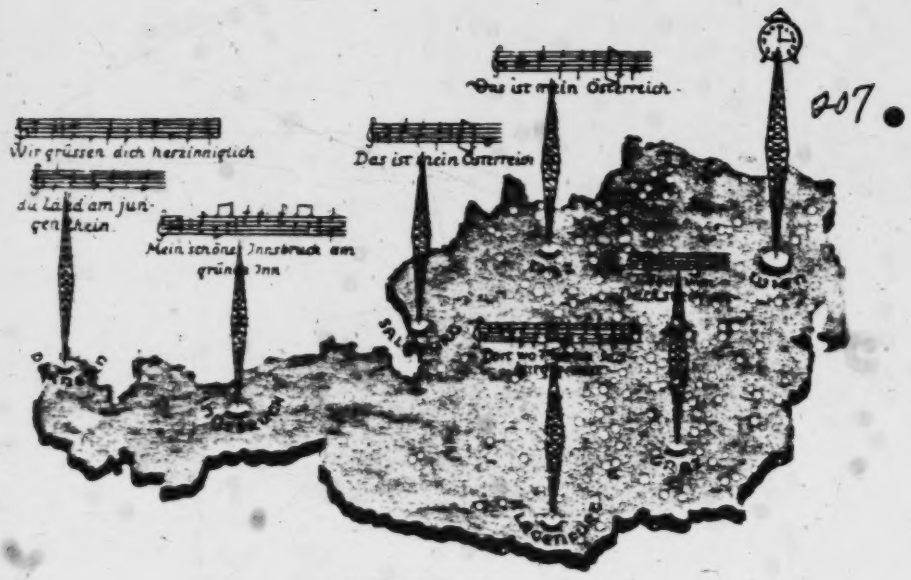

Austrian Broadcasting Centres.

protection of individuals who have lost their work and, of course, contribute the social security of the State.

The annexation of 1938 and the Second World War robbed the Austrian People of its freedom and the fruits of twenty years of painstaking reconstruction.

THE ECONOMIC POSITION AFTER 1945.

Austria's liberation had to be paid for by severe economic sacrifices. Compulsory incorporation into German armament production had been followed by far-reaching changes designed to increase Germany's output of war materials. The necessary investments for renewals and replacements could not be made, while machinery deteriorated more rapidly. Apart from this, Austria had been exposed from 1943 onwards to the effects of bombing, which increased towards the end of the war

3: Hiscocks G-4, 5 (1946-1949) 1953 EK1 Austria EK1

on such trifling matters as the categories of mail permitted, and at certain stages in the restoration of postal facilities with Germany and Japan 'printed matter' and registered letters became subjects of discussion between the High Commissioners. All four occupying Powers had broadcasting stations under their control, but the Russians, being in possession of RAVAG, the main Vienna station, could cause most inconvenience to the Austrians. In 1950 the Soviet authorities gave orders that the despatches of the Russian news service, known as TASS, were to be broadcast in full, as part of the Austrian news, without being attributed to their source. After a Communist official had punched the director of the Austrian news bureau on the nose, the Austrians maintained their right to do as they wished with their news broadcasts. During the same year a Western proposal that a Viennese television station should be approved was dropped owing to Soviet insistence on conditions that would have led to its falling under Soviet domination. The Russians also did all that they could to hinder the development of Austrian civil aviation, and a Department of Civil Aviation in the Austrian Government that was established with Western support in 1947 has been able to accomplish very little. On a higher level, the Soviet authorities consistently opposed Austria's applications to join the specialized agencies of the United Nations, and their efforts were only thwarted owing to Austrian determination and world-wide support for her membership.

On the two questions of censorship and the police the Soviet policy of obstruction was particularly stubborn. In the light of Russia's record in its satellite countries, the choice of these subjects for special treatment is a cause of no surprise.

The origin of the Allied censorship in Vienna goes back to the autumn of 1945, when a Quadripartite Signals Committee was formed to supervise such restrictions on civil communications as were necessary for security reasons, until the Austrian Government assumed normal responsibility. A quadripartite censorship was set up in the Schillerplatz in Vienna which controlled all telegrams and telephone calls between Austria